The Community Assessment Project

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Southern Center on Environmentally-Driven Disparities in Birth Outcomes (SCEDDBO)

SCEDDBO goals:

- Understand the biological, environmental, and social vulnerabilities that contribute to health disparities;
- Incorporate innovative statistical analysis into children's environmental health research, with a particular emphasis on spatial analysis;
- 3) Serve as a technical and educational resource in the area
 - of children's health and health disparities; and
- 5) Translate our results for community groups, government officials, clinical care, and practice.





Theoretical framework





Community Assessment Project

CAP motivated by:

- 1. Pronounced health disparities in Durham
- 2. Strong community interest in systematically assessing the built environment





CAP aims:

- 1. Survey features of the built environment for Durham residents
- 2. Elucidate the impact of the built environment on health outcomes
- 3. Build relationships with community members.



CAP Objectives

- 1. Build GPS-enabled technology for systematically measuring elements of the built environment
- 2. Design and implement a field data collection protocol
- 3. Construct and validate summary indices of built environment data
- 4. Assess longitudinal change in the community



- 5. Disseminate study results to community stakeholders, providing them with tools for advocacy
- 6. Develop and validate best practices for assessing the built environment



CAP Methods

- 6-member team
- Daily community assessment
 - 57 variables
 - Started with literature review
 - Community leader input
 - Variables representing community concerns
 - Community assets
 - Religious institutions
 - Parks
 - Community centers
- GPS-enabled database used to record observations





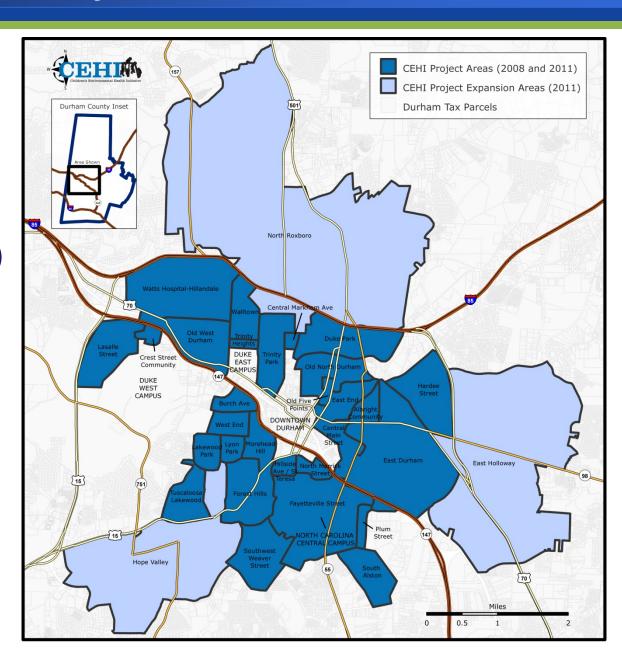
CAP Study Area – 2008, 2011

2008 (dark blue)

- 17,000 tax parcels
- 29 neighborhoods

2011 (both blues)

- 30,700 parcels
- 2008 area + additional contiguous communities
- Longitudinal data for 17,000 parcels (dark blue area)





CAP Variables

Descriptors

- Property type
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Community
 - Government
 - Faith
 - Empty lot
 - Parking lot
- Property status
 - Occupied
 - Unoccupied

Conditions

- Broken windows
- Boarded doors
- Holes in walls
- Roof damage
- Residential front entry type
- Residential front entry damage
- Peeling paint and area
- Fire damage
- Condemned
- Eviction notice
- Padlocked
- Residential driveway
- Residential cars on lawn
- Residential greenery

- Residential garden
- Residential no grass
- Fencing: damage, material, area enclosed
- Security bars
- Barbed wire
- No trespassing sign
- Beware of dog sign
- Security sign
- For sale sign
- For rent sign
- Dog
- Window AC unit
- Home repair
- New home construction

Nuisances

- Standing water
- Litter
- Garbage
- Broken glass
- Discarded furniture
- Discarded appliances
- Discarded tires
- Inoperable vehicle
- High weeds/grass
- Graffiti
- Other nuisance

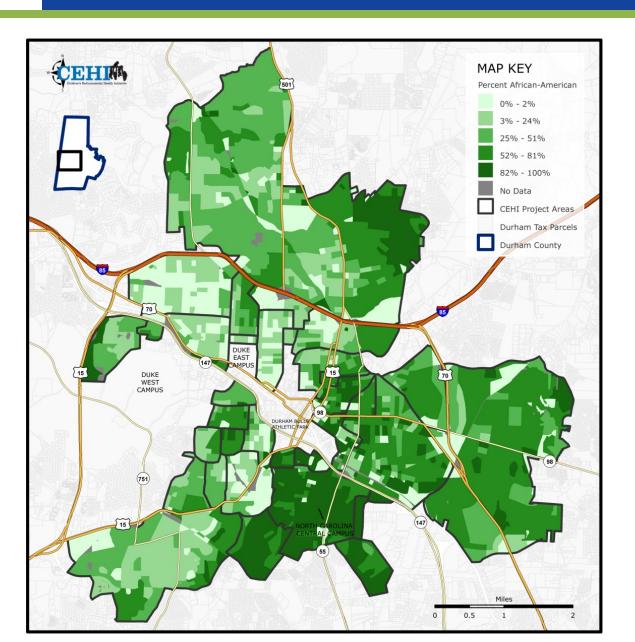


Neighborhood Health Indices

Structural Damage	Public Nuisances	Property Disorder	Security Measures	Amenities/ Resources	Tenure	Vacancy	Crime
•Boarded door	•Cars on lawn	•Composite measure of	•Security bars	•Schools	•Owner- occupied	•Vacant commercial	•Robberies
•Holes in walls	•No grass	Structural Damage and Nuisances on	•Barbed wire	•Libraries	•Renter- occupied	Vacant residential	•Homicide
•Roof damage	•Standing water	Private Property	•Sign: no trespassing	•Faith institutions		Vacant empty lot	•Assault
•Chimney damage	•Litter		•Sign: beware of dog	•Day care centers			
•Foundation damage	•Garbage		•Security sign	Health care providers			
•Entry damage	•Broken glass			•Grocery stores			
•Door damage	Discarded furniture			•Parks			
•Peeling paint	•Discarded appliances			•Community Centers			
•Fire damage	•Discarded tires						
•Condemned	•Inoperable vehicles						
Broken Windows	High grass or weeds						

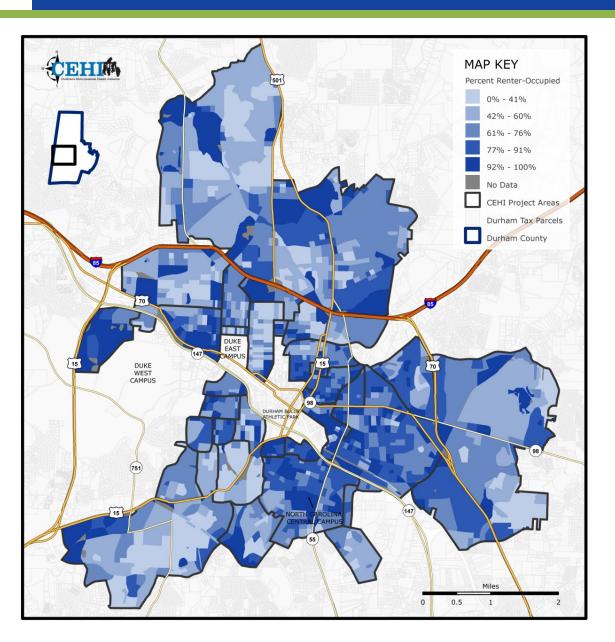


Percent African American



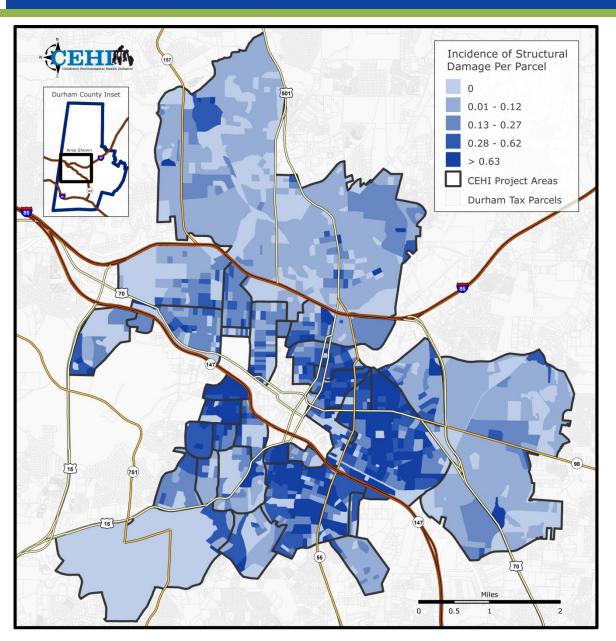


Percent Renter-Occupied



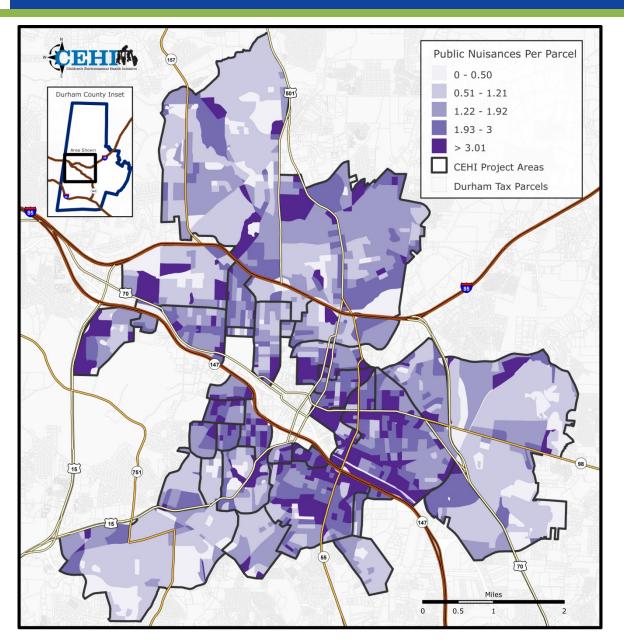


Structural Damage



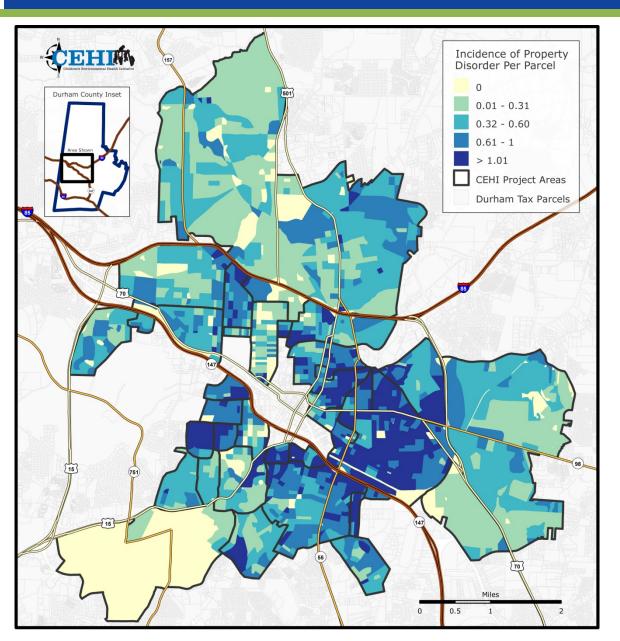


Nuisances



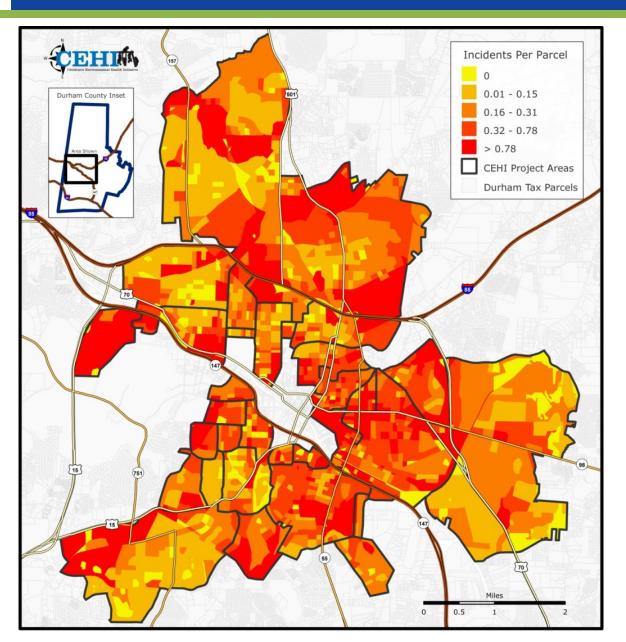


Property Disorder



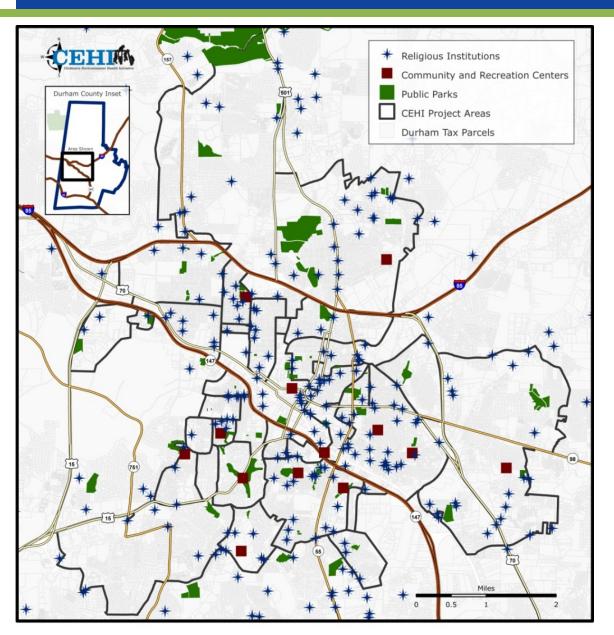


Crime



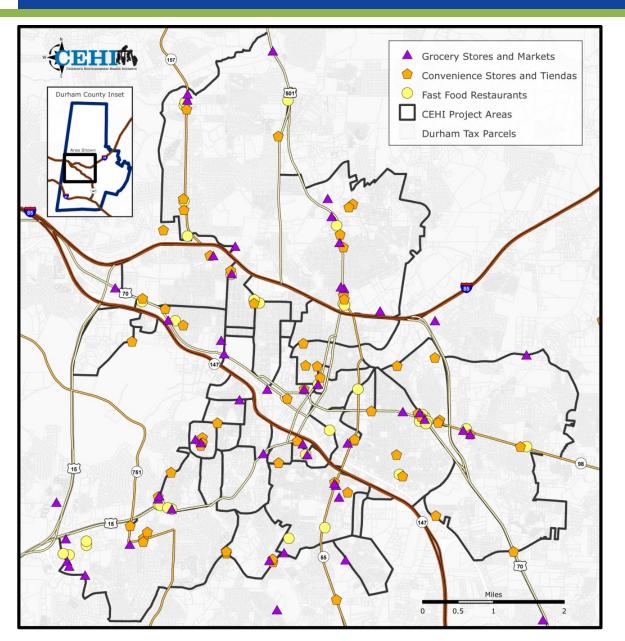


Community Resources





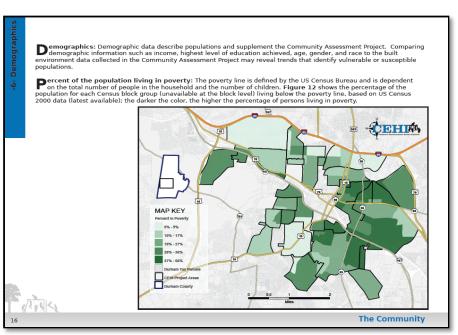
Community Resources

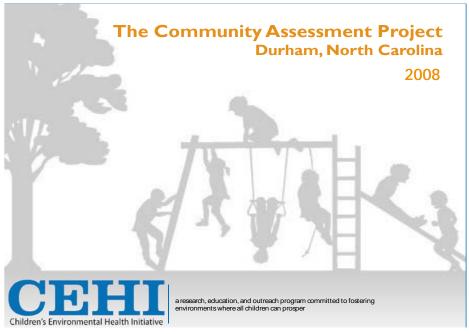




Community Assessment Report

- Report to the community –
 2008 with 2012 report soon to be issued
- Distributed to 800 key community stakeholders
- Community meetings





- Publicly available interactive web application
- Data sharing with Office of Neighborhood Improvement Services (and others)



Community Engagement

Collaboration with community partners builds understanding and relationships at all stages.

- Tool development
- Data collection
- Dissemination of results power of the data to inform local programs, initiatives, and strategies

The community provides <u>contextual meaning</u> for and <u>policy</u> <u>application</u> of the data.



Acknowledgements

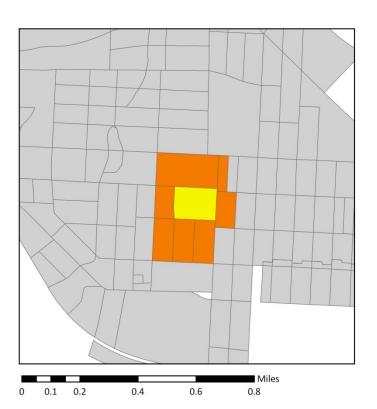
- US Environmental Protection Agency (RD 83329301)
- Durham community members
- CEHI CAP field team led by John Post
- CEHI GIS analysts



Analysis

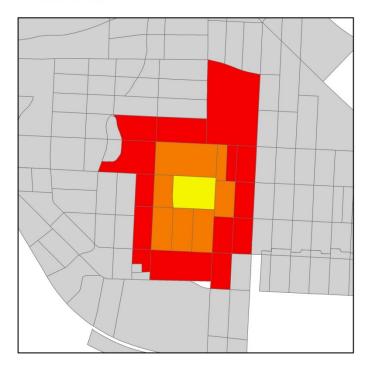
Primary Adjacency

Blocks primarily adjacent to block X are all blocks sharing a line segment or vertex with block X.



<u>Primary + Secondary Adjacency</u>

Blocks secondarily adjacent to block X are all blocks sharing a line segment or vertex with all blocks primarily adjacent to block X.

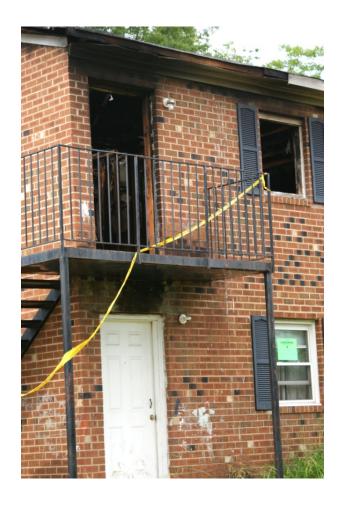




The Built Environment

Manmade physical features and conditions that define the local environment:

- Housing
- Commercial buildings
- Distribution of resources
- Infrastructure
- Urban design





Percent in Poverty

